Advent Series – December 22, 2021

***Listening and Speaking Together:***

***Steps for Congregations***

1. Gather together those in your congregation who are interested in addressing the justice concerns before our church today. There may already be a specific issue that has been raised, e.g. racial justice, the environment.
2. Explore ways to expand your own learning to better understand the issues and their ramifications, as well as your own biases. Consider other churches, groups working on these issues and how you might benefit from what they are already doing.
3. Develop a purpose statement and initial strategies to meet specific outcomes that you desire. It’s helpful for desired outcomes to be measurable, doable. Consider questions like:

* Who do we serve?
* What are we called toward? i.e. what is the future that God desires for us?
* What do you provide?
* What in our context limits or launches our actions?
* How do you measure fulfillment of your goals?
* How can education processes lead to a new vision, new relationship, new action?
* How do current systems block our move toward a transformative future?
* Who can we encourage to join us in this ministry?

1. Share your group’s ideas with the pastor and with the church board and solicit their ideas and support.
2. Discern broader congregational passion for this work through educational events, surveys, one-on-ones.
3. Build a spiritual base for this work—both individual and communal, founded on the scriptural call to justice. Recognize that this is God’s work in which we are joining.

**Have Questions or Need Resources?**

Reach out to the Western District Justice Team, [wdjustice@gmail.com](mailto:wdjustice@gmail.com)

Racial Justice Team for the Northern Province, [suekoenig@mcnp.org](mailto:suekoenig@mcnp.org)